

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 /053 W

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R 161705Z MAR 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8765

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

ALL EC CAPITALS 10

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1993

PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL, HOROWITZ AND QUACKENBUSH

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO

SUBJECT: ILO: INFORMAL WESTERN GROUP CONSIDERS FOLLOWUP TO WORKING
PARTY ON STRUCTURE

REF: GENEVA 1244 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: AT CANADIAN INVITATION INFORMAL "WESTERN GROUP" OF
GENEVA REPS MET MARCH 15 TO DISCUSS FOLLOWUP TO WORKING PARTY ON
STRUCTURE (WPS) WHICH ENDED IN COMPLETE DEADLOCK ON FEB 13. GROUP
AGREED ONLY TO MEET AGAIN IN TWO-THREE WEEKS TO CONSIDER
PROPOSALS THAT MIGHT COME OUT OF EFFORTS BY ASIAN WORKING OF
GROUP OF 77 AND TO REFER BACK TO CAPITALS REFINED UK PROPOSAL
FOR AMENDMENT OF ART 7. CONSENSUS IN GROUP FAVORED SEPARATION
FROM WPS AGENDA OF US PROPOSAL TO AMEND STANDING ORDERS OF
CONFERENCE ON HANDLING OF RESOLUTIONS (ON HYPOTHESIS THAT
MANDATE OF WPS WOULD BE EXTENDED). NO DECISION REACHED ON
ITALIAN PROPOSAL TO MEET IN MAY TO DISCUSS STRATEGY ON
STRUCTURE AT JUNE CONFERENCE. CANADIANS AND
ITALIANS ANXIOUS TO AVOID CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AND UK
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WAIVERING BUT CLOSE TO THEIR POSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY REPS OF PERMANENT MISSIONS OF FRG, BELGIUM, CANADA, NORWAY, FRANCE, JAPAN AND NEW ZEALAND. ITALY WAS REPRESENTED BY DR AGO AND THE UK BY NIGEL FORWARD THEIR RESPECTIVE MEMBERS OF ILO GOVERNING BODY.

3. GROUP FAVORED REMOVING US PROPOSAL ON RESOLUTIONS FROM WPS BECAUSE (1) AS LONG AS IT REMAINS IN WPS, 77 WILL ATTEMPT TO USE IT AS TRADEOFF AND (2) BECAUSE US PROPOSAL WAS THOUGHT TO HAVE SUFFICIENT SUPPORT FOR APPROVAL BY ILO GOVERNING BODY.

4. AGO MADE RAMBLING SPEECH DESIGNED TO RESURRECT HIS "CONTINENTAL" PROPOSITION FOR REVISION OF ART 7 AS BASIS FOR DEVELOPING SCENARIO WITH 77 IN WHICH ILO CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON STRUCTURE WOULD RENEW MANDATE OF WPS FOR ANOTHER YEAR AND NOT MOVE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. AGO SAID ENLARGEMENT OF NUMBER OF CHIEF STATES BY USE OF CONTINENTAL FORMULA WAS ONLY ALTERNATIVE AVAILABLE TO INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES IF THEY WISH TO AVOID "NYET STANCE" AND TO REACH COMPROMISE WITH THIRD WORLD.

5. LABATT SAID US WILLING TO EXAMINE PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE BUT THAT IN LAST YEAR PROPOSALS MADE IN WPS HAD RAISED MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS. GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION FORMULAE UNACCEPTABLE BECAUSE THEY WOULD ADD TO EE PRESSURE TO MODIFY AUTONOMY OF GROUPS, ESPECIALLY EMPLOYERS GROUP. USG HAD URGED CHIEF STATES TO MAKE "POLITICAL DECISION" TO USE VETO POWER AGAINST CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND TO FACE SQUARELY THREAT FROM 77 TO HOLD CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. USG CONCERNED THAT OVERWEENING DESIRE OF INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO COMPROMISE WAS ENCOURAGING THIRD WORLD TO STIFFEN DEMANDS. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR SAID "POLITICAL DISCUSSION" NECESSARY WITH THIRD WORLD AND THAT IN THIS DISCUSSION INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES SHOULD STAND ON PRINCIPLES OF TRIPARTITISM AND OF CONTINUITY IN GOVERNING BODY.

6. FORWARD (UK) SAID BASIS ISSUE IS WHETHER TO STAND FIRM AGAINST CHANGE AND THIS RAISED QUESTION OF VALUE OF ILO TO BOTH 77 AND INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. IN CONTEXT OF DISCUSSION
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"WITHOUT COMMITMENT TO CHANGE", HE SUBMITTED REFINED DRAFT (POUCHED) OF PROPOSITION HE HAD MADE TO INFORMAL GROUP DURING WPS. FORWARD WOULD AMEND ART 7 TO PROVIDE FOR COMPLEX WEIGHTED VOTING PROCEDURE FOR 18 OF 28 GB SEATS. BELGIUM AND NORWAY POINTED OUT FORWARD PROPOSAL DID NOTHING FOR SMALL COUNTRIES. AFTER SHORT AND CRITICAL DISCUSSION, GROUP AGREED TO REFER PROPOSALS TO CAPITALS FOR FURTHER STUDY.

7. COMMENT: GENEVA REPS OF INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES
SEEM AT LOSS TO HANDLE DEADLOCK ON STRUCTURE. NEITHER
AGO'S CONTINENTAL PROPOSAL NOR FORWARD'S STATISTICAL VOTING
APPROACH TO ART 7 SOLVE ALL THEIR (OR US) PROBLEMS
OR OTHER PROSPECT OF ACCEPTANCE BY 77. NONE OF GENEVA REPS
RELISH SHOWDOWN AT JUNE CONFERENCE OR IN
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME
RECOGNITION THAT ULTIMATE FALLBACK POSITION IS USE OF VETO
AGAINST STRUCTURAL CHANGE BY CHIEF STATES. BETWEEN NOW AND JUNE
CONFERENCE WE CAN EXPECT AGO AND CANADIANS TO FLOAT
COMPROMISE SCENARIOS BETWEEN "EXTREME POSITIONS" OF US
AND 77. DALE

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